

# Happiness Pony

happinesspony.com

The People. The Power. The Ponies.

May 2011

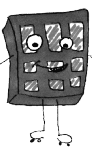
## BECOME A SNAKE OR A LOVER

With Zackary Sholem  
Berger's Yiddish and  
English book of poetry  
**NOT IN THE SAME  
BREATH**

[zackarysholemberger.com](http://zackarysholemberger.com)



**What's a WooDaddy?**



WooDaddy Waffles is Worcester's  
Community Building Culinary Creation!

Serving brunch every  
Sunday from 11-3

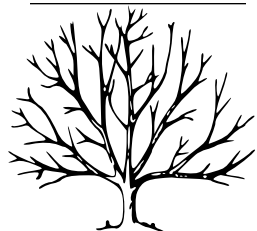
Bring your people. Eat great food.  
Make waffles, not war.

More info including menu, weekly  
waffle specials, catering, and more:  
[www.WooDaddyWaffles.com](http://www.WooDaddyWaffles.com)  
(774) 312-6WOO



Cable access  
for Worcester  
on channel 13

[wccatv.com](http://wccatv.com)



**We need a different tree**  
For seekers of roots, life has ample  
proof  
that Power and Privilege  
consistently oppress the People.  
This Power and Privilege is  
perfected in war,  
& accepted universally like any  
other conventional tree.  
And then,  
its shade kills the People.  
Why would an Afghan mother want  
a tree that kills?  
Why would scholars promote it?  
Why would the few rich and  
powerful insist on it?  
Why would the People want it?  
War is NOT what we wish to plant  
on any day, & certainly not today.  
We wish to plant a tree rooted in  
Love,  
a Love which says, 'I live and love, so  
I shall not kill.'  
If we wish to live without wars,  
we need to plant a different tree.

## How many teeth do women have?

Many people today believe that women have fewer teeth than men, a theory most famously promoted by Aristotle in his 350 B.C. classic *History of Animals*, where he stated that "Males have more teeth than females in the case of men, sheep, goats, and swine." Recent scientific research tells us, and the Happiness Pony editorial team can confirm, that men and women usually have the same number of teeth, 32. Other Aristotelian theories of women, such that they have a poor disposition, and are mis-shapen, also remain strangely popular. (MB)

## Youth Un!ted Against Tree-Licking

As a Youth, it is with great regret that I deplore the lack of gathering places for young people in Worcester. As we ride from place to place, many of my fellow Youth may be driven down dark paths. I beseech my peers not to turn to licking the trees of our fair City. With the encroach of the Asian Longhorn Beetle, and the spraying of nicotine-based *imidacloprid* pesticide on our vulnerable trees, combined with the forthcoming ban on the sale of cigarettes in pharmacies, which will completely prevent youth from accessing nicotine, it is a great temptation to run into the nearest forest and lick trees until your tongue turns to bark—but you can just say NO! Despite society's hatred for our boisterous conduct, deviant behavior, and general flippancy, we Youth must never succumb to weakness, but strive onwards, creating positive places for emotional and psychic growth, making our presence felt, and raising our voices, refusing to accept the prevalent stereotype of "tree-licking delinquents." There can be a better tomorrow, and I'll need you all there, with me. (AN)

## Salt for the Unsalted

UNCOMMON WISDOM FROM BRUCE "SNOW GHOST" RUSSELL

Hey Bruce: What do you think of Worcester's Mechanic's Hall?

**The problem with Mechanic's Hall is, I never found a good mechanic there. Just a bunch of maniacs!**

How do you survive life in Worcester?

**Try to think positive. Don't let people get under your skin, knock you down, or define you. The other possible solution is like climbing to the top of a Silver Mountain. Once you're in the middle, it's a long way to the top. Do you want to stop there or keep going?**

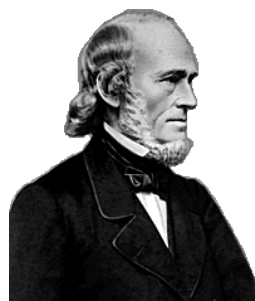
## Planting Trees in Afghanistan

BY SCOTT SCHAEFFER-DUFFY

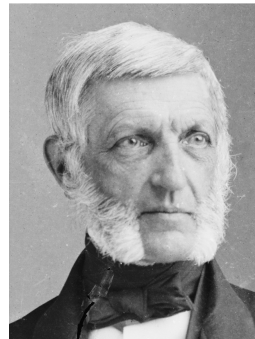
Hania is five years old going on six. I took this photo of her March 19, 2011 at the School of Knowledge and Religion in Kabul, Afghanistan. She's holding a drawing of trees she made for a "tree-planting for peace" organized by the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers. Just prior to the tree-planting, the group, who have all lost parents or siblings in the Afghan war, read a poem they wrote for the occasion (at left). Find out more about the group at [livewithoutwars.org](http://livewithoutwars.org).



## Beards of Worcester



Ichabod Washburn



George Bancroft



Duncan Arsenault



Julius Jones

"Mothers News"  
IT IS A  
NEWSPAPER.  
[mothersnews.net](http://mothersnews.net)



**STATESIDE TV** PEACE UP

PEKING DUCK DISPLAYS  
*Come Once (at least)*  
VIETNA MESE SAND WHICH IS  
SWEE RE SEAMER  
EAS AND KENNES

it's a party every time.

DRINK BAR BY PATRICIA  
is a BELOVED veganarian type. //  
// came from garden growing // in grass doors  
// & French hitchhikers // w'da "undground  
home restrant that got BUSTED", C "6th girl"  
and Mr. Lan // attempt an open-air style. // w/  
coffee/teas bar // Open April 11 //  
872 Main St. // [tycheng@gmail.com](mailto:tycheng@gmail.com) 4 updates.

# Booming Connecticut

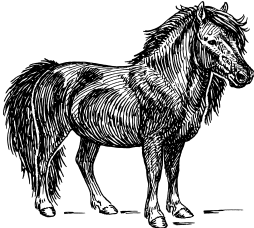
Rumbles and sounds like gunfire today emerge from a cave in Moodus, Connecticut. Seismologists say the noises are related to mini-earthquakes. (There was a serious earthquake in the area in 1791, felt as far away as New York and Boston. It was estimated at Mercalli Intensity VII, roughly Richter 6.0.) Scholars think that this place, called in the native language *Machimoodus*, or “the place of noises,” was a neutral, holy ground for the native peoples. Early white settlers believed it was a center of devil worship. According to Charles Montgomery Skinner, writing in 1896, “It was finally understood that Haddam witches, who practised black magic, met the Moodus witches, who used white magic, in a cave beneath Mount Tom, and fought them in the light of a great carbuncle that was fastened to the roof.” The noises apparently lessed after an English magician named Dr. Steele arrived, built a house, sealed it tight, caused loud noises, sparks, and smoke to emerge from it, and finally extracted the carbuncle before heading out for parts unknown. Today, there is “hiking, tennis, golf, horseshoe pitching, badminton, volleyball, softball, fishing, boating, canoeing, basketball, boccé,” and a “game room.”



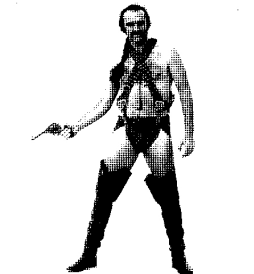
**ELBOW GREASE**  
Green Cleaning &  
Organization

Patricia Kirkpatrick  
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**Book Review:**  
**Misty of Chincoteague**  
One of my greatest desires as a child was that I would happen upon an animal that I could then befriend ala “Shiloh,” “Rascal,” and “Free Willy.” In the realm of childhood novels that encouraged this aspiration, *Misty of Chincoteague* by Marguerite Henry stands out. The story of two children’s quest to get their very own pony makes Virginia seems magical. A place full of wild horses, violent storms, and auctions where kids working together can hope to afford to buy their dreams. Wonderful descriptions of shipwrecks, nature, and farm chores. Based on a true story! Which means you too could have a pony if you dare to believe and collaborate with siblings! (JB)



**Movie Review: Zardoz**  
From the Shakespearean screensaver at the beginning to the cave empty save handprints and a revolver at the end, this movie is a series of uncanny images, any one of which would dominate a normal film, but which here pale before the central visual, a leggy, hirsute Sean Connery. Connery sometimes charges, sometimes drifts through a future world of giant, flying stone heads, forest asylums, naked mud wrestling, women in plastic bags, choral mind control, a disturbing amount of sexual violence, and, of course, dystopian social engineering. Not recommended for kids or anyone wanting a goofy old movie to make fun of. Recommended for anyone who likes movies that are one-of-a-kind and sometimes disturbing. (MB)

## How Worcester’s Mayor Is Like the Queen

Worcester has a modified Plan E form of government—our chief executive is the (unelected) City Manager; the Mayor is nothing more than the head of our legislature, the City Council. Worcesterites affectionately call this the “Weak Mayor” form of government. We’ve had this form of government for over 60 years, though every ten years or so Worcesterites get restless with the status quo and toy with the idea of “charter change,” imagining that a “Strong Mayor” would be an improvement. Here are some typical reasons offered for such change:

**Accountability.** Electing a leader would mean that the chief executive would be accountable to voters on a regular basis.

**Effectiveness.** There are a significant number of people who look at the career of Providence’s Buddy Cianci not as a cautionary tale of corruption but as an example of a person who gets things done.

**Leadership.** What the Buddy Cianci fans are really pointing to is a sense of leadership. A City Manager just manages city operations with some input/direction from the City Council. A strong Mayor would have much more freedom to direct the city according to his own vision.

Those content to leave Plan E in place feel:

**A strong mayor form of government might politicize city government.** One of the reasons Worcester moved to a City Manager was to avoid political appointments and to have a professional administrator running the city.

**An apathetic electorate, few of whom vote regularly, effectively negate the benefit of electing the administrator.** We could end up with a ten-term Mayor who is just as unaccountable as an unelected City Manager.

**Our two-year election cycle is too short for the administrator of a city.** A strong Mayor who spends half his time scheming for the next election with feel-good projects isn’t an effective administrator.

These are just a few points raised by both sides of the “charter change” divide. That we revisit this topic so often could indicate a lack of institutional memory, or perhaps just a stubborn Yankee sense that things might possibly work better if we get under the hood & tinker a bit. (NA)



“Live the Dream” by Aiden Duffy

## PonyCon 2011 Reportback

*The Happiness Pony Convention was held April 21, 2011 in dreams. Several of the attendees e-mailed their recollections of these dreams to editor@happinesspony.com.*

**Picnic Area:** Full of malevolent-looking elves with ratty faces, but you know what? They weren’t malevolent at all! They were making sandwiches, drinking lemonade, and making baby noises at babies that were making baby noises. A nice crowd!

**Dance Floor:** I saw nicky revs coming off the dance floor, he said the gender ratio was lady-high, too much so, but everyone was having fun.

**Computer Lab:** There were two wasted dudes causing trouble in the computer lab—one was one of purtle’s skate buddies, three sheets to the wind and stumbling around—there was a worry he would puke on a computer but also he was upsetting the bluenosed old snobs, which I was into. Angry and wasted and rebuffed was the second guy, who was hassling the emo scene hair camgirls, who had no interest in talking to him and were handling the situation as best as possible: don’t feed the trolls. This guy was the personification of a frown. I interceded in the girls’ behalf but couldn’t figure out a way to get the guy out without resorting to violence. Luckily there was also at the party a *bunch* of mousy looking mob bosses (12 or 15), tiny guys in overlarge suits, fishing for fish in the adjacent lake and fishing for field mice in the long grass. When asked politely they responded politely, and politely asked the hassler, why not leave immediately? He immediately acquiesced. It’s good to have friends in low places I always say!

The Weak Mayors of Worcester’s Current Charter	
Jordan Levy	1988–1993
Raymond Mariano	1994–2001
Timothy Murray	2002–2006
Konstantina Lukes	2007–2009
Joseph C. O’Brien	2010–PRESENT

Our “current charter” includes both District Councilors and direct election of the Mayor.

- 3 wheeled rectangle bench
- combination razor/shaving mirror
- 60 foot extension cat leash
- bean bag chair: kidney, split pea, or navy
- disposable deck/beach chair
- garden hose water filter
- biocombustible air freshener
- combo ice cream/ taffy maker
- personal data massager

HAPPINESS PONY Income Statement April 2011	
<b>Revenue</b>	
Donations from editors	\$97.16
Ad sales	\$0.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
500 copies	\$96.20
Test copies	\$0.96
<b>Net Income</b>	\$0.00

Happiness Pony #2 was edited by Asa Needle and Mike Benedetti. editor@happinesspony.com